

REMARKS

The indication in the Quayle action of March 31, 2004 of the allowability of claims 45-76 has been noted with appreciation. Nevertheless, it is respectfully submitted that the following recitation in each of the independent claims allowed by the Examiner would unduly limit the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled: "each of said extending portions comprising a first subportion that extends **in a direction that is transverse to** a vertical axis of the second clamping member when the first clamping member is in the inserted position". As described in the specification as filed at, for example, the paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3; page 3, lines 27-28 and Fig. 4 of the drawings, the respective first subportions of the extending portions extend away from each other and from a vertical axis of the second clamping member with **a directional component** that is transverse to a vertical axis of the second clamping member. In other words, the specification shows that, as of the application filing date, Applicant had possession of an invention wherein the respective first subportions extend away from the vertical axis and wherein the direction of extension could be, but does not have to be, substantially transverse to the vertical axis.

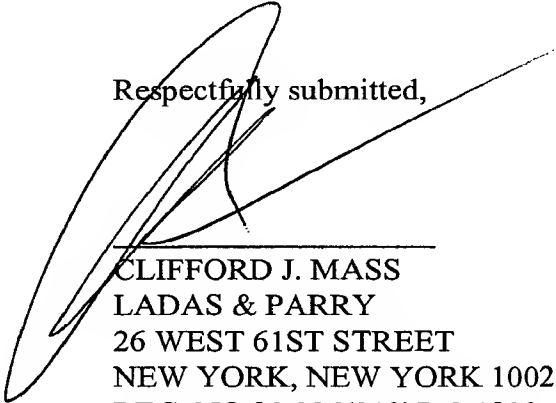
The claims have now been amended to broaden their scope by removing the narrower limitation from the independent claims and substituting the broader recitation discussed above. The narrower recitation has been inserted into new claims 77 and 78. All claims as amended are respectfully believed patentably to distinguish

over the prior art for the same reasons as the previous claims did.

In the Quayle action of March 31, 2004, the Examiner requested an amendment to the specification to insert headings. Applicant respectfully notes that she complied with this requirement in the Amendment dated December 24, 2003. A copy of this Amendment is submitted herewith along with a stamped postcard showing receipt by the USPTO.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests an early and favorable reconsideration of the application as amended.

Respectfully submitted,



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